

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 14. (canceled).

15. (new) A longitudinal inflatable material configured to form an inflated cellular cushioning material in a continuous manner on an as-needed, real-time basis by continuously inflating said inflatable material and applying sealing lines across the width thereof every predetermined distance so as to form rows of closed inflated cells, the inflatable material comprising at least two layers of plastic joined together to form an inflatable sleeve and pre-welded to each other in a predetermined pattern, wherein said predetermined pattern comprises:

 a plurality of diagonally oriented lines extending across the inflatable material so as to form a plurality of diagonally oriented inflatable sleeves of a predetermined width and a longitudinally extending air entry passage, wherein each of said inflatable sleeves has an opening at one end thereof for allowing entry of air from said air entry passage into said sleeve; and

 at least one discontinuous longitudinal line extending along said longitudinally extending air entry passage, said at least one discontinuous longitudinal line comprising a plurality of substantially longitudinal welded sections of a predetermined length interrupted by non-welded sections to allow passage of air from the air entry passage to the diagonally oriented inflatable sleeves;

 wherein said predetermined length of said longitudinal welded sections is larger than said predetermined width of said inflatable sleeves so as to reduce the non-inflated areas along the air entry passage in the inflated cellular cushioning material.

16. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein each one of the two layers of plastic is made of one or more layers of plastic.

17. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein the plastic is a polymer based material.

18. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein the diagonally oriented lines form an obtuse angle with the longitudinal air entry passage.
19. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein the diagonally oriented lines form an acute angle with the longitudinal air entry passage.
20. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein said longitudinal air entry passage is located in a central region of said material and wherein said plurality of diagonally oriented lines comprise two sets of diagonal lines extending from opposite longitudinal sides of said material to said longitudinal air entry passage.
21. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein said longitudinal air entry passage is located along a longitudinal side of said material.
22. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein said predetermined distance between said sealing lines is of about 1 to about 20 centimeter.
23. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein the predetermined length of said longitudinal welded sections is of about 5 to about 30 centimeter.
24. (new) The longitudinal inflatable material of claim 15 wherein said non-welded sections are of about 0.3 to about 3 centimeters.